

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/AFN:STESCUERO:BAS

APPROVED BY: NEA/AFN:WSWEISLOGEL

NEA:EABINGTON

S/S-O:MTANNER

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R 280506Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T STATE 049252

EXDIS, MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO RABAT, TEHRAN FROM
AMMAN FEB 221441Z FEB 76:

QUOTE S E C R E T AMMAN 0951

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, US, MO, IR

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE FOR MOROCCO

REF: STATE 041786

1. I REVIEWED WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI MORNING FEBRUARY
22 ON POINTS CONTAINED REFTL.

2. I HAD JUST RECEIVED PRIOR TO MEETING WITH RIFAI LETTER
FROM HIM REQUESTING TRANSFER AUTHORITY FOR 36 RECOILLESS
RIFLES AND 20 F-5A AIRCRAFT. LETTER WILL BE FORWARDED
SEPTEL. RIFAI SAYS THE FORM OF INTENDED TRANSFER WILL
BE BY GIFT (GRANT) AND THE EQUIPMENT WAS OBTAINED IN THE
CASE OF RECOILLESS RIFLES THROUGH THE MAP PROGRAM AND IN
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THE CASE OF THE AIRCRAFT BY GIFT FROM IRAN. WE WILL RE-

SEARCH THESE POINTS WITH JORDANIAN MILITARY AND CONFIRM THEM ALSO IN SEPTEL.

3. RIFAI TOLD ME THAT HE HAS DISCUSSED QUESTION WITH MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR WHO HAS RETURNED TO RABAT ON CONSULTATION. RIFAI SAYS JORDAN HAS ASKED MOROCCO FOR A LETTER STIPULATING MOROCCO'S AGREEMENT TO REPLACE THE F-5A'S ONE-FOR-ONE BY F-5E'S AND SETTING FORTH A DELIVERY SCHEDULE FOR THE F-5E'S. FURTHER, RIFAI HAS ASKED MOROCCANS TO NOTIFY THE US ALSO IN WRITING OF THIS ARRANGEMENT.

4. TRANSFER HAS CAUSED SOME UNHAPPINESS IN JORDANIAN AIR FORCE, CHIEF OF WHICH COMPLAINED TO ME ON SOCIAL OCCASION ABOUT EFFECTS OF TRANSFER ON HIS TRAINING PROGRAMS AND AIR FORCE MORALE. I RECOMMENDED THAT HE REPORT HIS CONCERNS TO CHIEF OF STAFF AND KING. APPARENTLY HE DID SO, CITING ME AS SUPPORTING HIS ARGUMENTS. WHEN RIFAI REPORTED THIS TO ME, I WAS ABLE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, TELLING HIM THAT I HAD ONLY ADVISED HIS CHIEF OF AIR FORCE TO RAISE THE ISSUE WITH HIS MILITARY SUPERIORS AND THAT TO THE EXTENT THAT TRANSFER OF AIRCRAFT ACTUALLY DISTURBED LOCAL TRAINING PROGRAMS, I TOO PERSONALLY WOULD REGRET THE EFFECT. HOWEVER I EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS A JORDANIAN JUDGMENT AND WANTED RIFAI TO BE SURE THAT WE WOULD COOPERATE AND WORK WITH JORDAN IN WHATEVER THEY WANTED TO DO ABOUT THE PROPOSAL. RIFAI INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD MY POSITION AND THAT I HAD BEEN MISQUOTED BY CHIEF OF AIR FORCE, WHO HAD EVIDENTLY ASSUMED THE TRANSFER WOULD CAUSE VERY SERIOUS CONGRESSIONAL COMPLICATIONS FOR JORDAN. SINCE I HAD JUST FINISHED TELLING RIFAI WASHINGTON'S JUDGMENT ON POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL IMPLICATIONS, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT POINT AND I TOLD HIM AS WELL THAT CHIEF OF AIR FORCE HAD PROBABLY BECOME CONFUSED WITH ANOTHER CONVERSATION WE HELD CONCERNING CONGRESSIONAL COMPLICATIONS WHICH MIGHT RESULT SHOULD JORDAN OBTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM COMMUNIST SOURCES. PICKERING UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE049252
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/AFN:STESCUDERO:BAS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760076-0678
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976021/aaaaaakk.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 41786
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSISTANCE FOR MOROCCO
TAGS: MASS, JO, US, MO, IR
To: USCINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006